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GOVERNMENT BY PATRONAGE

"There are now approximately 300,000 Federal employees. It is the great political army in the world and its commander-in-chief is the President of the United States."

"We don't think our patronage and their 'Loyal' and 'Liberals' T. A. Taff could give the most Statesmen. It is through the Federal office held by Mr. Bryan in Texas, New York and D. C. that we have been successful in getting him. I have no reason to believe that he will be nominated for President nor Mr. Hughes responsible for Governor. Had it not been for his work in drafting Southern resolutions to elect Taff delegates Mr. Bryan would never have been made chairman of the Republican National Committee. Were it not for the skill he has shown in managing Federal employes he would not have made the Postmaster General to begin at once the work of organizing Mr. Taft's campaign."

"In spite of all protest about the progress of negroes in the South, the fact remains that paternal power is largely a matter of official patronage and that this patronage commands from Washington, governors, States to less than it governs the nation. N. V. World."

Is the above plumb now known? Let the Richmond News-Leader, the Norfolk Landmark and the "What Not" of Richmond answer and then hang their heads in shame for saying, "Bryan did it."

"DISTRICT C."

We read in the book of Nationalism that they "read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense and caused them to understand the meaning."

These words could be profitably read and meditated on by the public speakers and readers of the day. If one may be permitted to do so without giving offense, we would say of the speaking, reading and singing of this day that they are surely to ward off disaster.

It is idle to speak, or read, or sing in presence of the people unless you tell them "distinctly" what you are talking, reading, or singing about. This isn't true of the song of the bird or the sigh of the sea. These we love to listen to though we do not know, and do not hope to know, what they are singing or sighing about. Not so, however, with a human voice. When it is used as the vehicle of our own tongue we want to know what the kindred tongue is talking, reading, or singing about.

Let's all of us brush up in this regard and make ourselves understood, whether in public gathering or face to face in the private circles of life.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

"By an executive order of President Roosevelt, 15,488 fourth-class postmasters in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan were placed in the classified service. New appointees in these States must render pass civil-service examinations."

"The order does not apply to the Southern States, where the fourth-class postmasters practically run the Republican party machinery. It does not apply to the far West, where many of them are former Rough Riders."—N. Y. World.

Why this sectional order? Class legislation is not more objectionable than are sectional executive orders.

THE SOUTH'S DREAD.

"The South is not afraid of a negro domination, that bogie has long since disappeared, but the South does stand in mortal dread of a division among the Southern whites that would open the way for coalition between unprincipled white men and negroes. Were the 10,000 white Democrats in this State to separate into hostile camps, the demagogues and corruptionists of both would appeal to the 25,000 qualified negro voters that is seeking to dominate."—Charleston News-Courier.

And that's the "sleekening" possibility against which the "what-nots" of Richmond and the anti-Bryan papers of the South were warned and to which they turned deaf ears. "Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad."

PROHIBITION.

"And dear old Petersburg is to have a local option fight. But what are the 'Cockade City' for the shock of battle? It will be but pleasant diversion a kind of holiday excursion, 'Wet' or 'dry' still Petersburg, rich in memories, thrilling with present activities, and looking the future full in the face fearlessly, hopefully, courageously."—Farmville Herald.

Now you are talking to the point. The old town will be right here for business, "wet or dry," and in all kinds of weather. But we do not think the probabilities very strong in the direction of a local option fight in the near future. So far as we are able to gather the sentiment and feeling of the liquor dealers, the disposition is to accept such reasonable regulation as will eliminate all objectionable features from the liquor traffic and render the saloon a harmless source of comfort, convenience and enjoyment. Prohibition not only does not prohibit, but it brings in its train a process of evasion, of blind tares, and evasion of the law in all the methods that lying and deceit can devise.—Petersburg Index.

Prohibition the vexed and unsolved problem of the ages. Men differ as to its solution, and while differing do make figures differ too. Here is our solution. Let all moderate and all Christian drinkers stop drinking, turn the entire support of the liquor traffic over to the confirmed drunkards, and the bottom will fall out of the business, and legislation and the preachers may hands off, for if profits are withdrawn men will no longer drink the stuff.

The remedy is a simple and easy one. Will the moderate and Christian drinkers apply it? If they will not then the business will live and flourish.

MUST AMEND THE PRIMARY.

The Democratic candidate for Governor will be nominated by a primary, a fact that will soon be giving Virginians some concern. The present primary system in Virginia is very unsatisfactory for several reasons, the chief one being that it provides no method of avoiding minority nominations when there are more than two candidates for a single office. With four candidates, it becomes difficult to imagine that the successful candidate may secure the nomination without receiving as many as one-third of the votes cast. Still that such a result will occasion no little dissatisfaction among the friends of the defeated candidates. We believe that a State convention is called prior to the primary election, for the purpose of so amending the primary plan as to provide a method of securing majority nominations. The suggestion is a good one, is doubtless made in the interest of party harmony, and should be acted upon. Soon or later, if the primary system is to continue dominant in Virginia, the objectionable features of the plan must be eliminated, and the sooner the better. Bristol Herald-Courier.

This is another State-wide import and it behoves the managers of Democratic affairs in the Commonwealth to act in time and act wisely. The Democratic cornerstone is majority rule. It wants no man's collar, bows to the behests of no losses, and abhors minority dictation. No man should be comfortable in Virginia's Whitehouse who hasn't been sent there by the votes of a majority of his party associates, and the Democrats of Virginia will not be satisfied with any Governor who has not the majority endorsement stamped upon him. These are "tremendous" days through which we are passing and we can't afford to make mistakes.

MR. TAFT BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY.

For weeks past the people of this Nation have been standing on tip toe of interest to catch the words of President-Elect Taff before the North Carolina Society in New York. The speech was delivered on Monday evening last. We can only find space for the closing words, which will be read with interest by all the citizens of the United States:

"The recent election has made it probable that I shall become more or less responsible for the policy of the next Presidential administration, and I propose this opportunity to say that nothing will give me greater pleasure than to add to the gratitude of my fellow citizens if I could so direct the next Presidential election that I could be responsible for the welfare of the Northern States as to convince the intelligent citizens of the desire of the administration to aid them in working out satisfactorily the problems before them and cheer in sympathy and point of view."

"During the last decade, in common with lovers of our country I have watched with delight and thanksgiving the bond of union between the two sections grow firmer. I pray that it may be given to me to strengthen this movement, to obliterate all sectional lines and leave nothing of difference between the North and South save a friendly emulation for the benefit of our common country."

SAVE SOMETHING.

In its last issue the Herald suggested the propriety of making good New-Year resolutions before the new year opened, and now the Richmond Evening Journal, in a leading editorial, takes up the same thought and would enforce the habit of "Saving Something." It says:

"Why not determine to begin to save something every week, or month, next year? If you do the Journal will guarantee you will take a far more cheerful view of life than you do now."

And don't save by "hiding in a hedge," or storing away in old socks, or in the corner of a chest." Let your money see the light of day, let it circulate. It is, you know, a "circulating medium," and a dollar in hiding is a dollar lost. If you desire an investment easy to handle, to turn over quickly, the banks offer best inducements, but for permanent investments real estate is the attraction. The man who makes \$50 per month and spends \$50 is heading toward bankruptcy. Take your choice but be sure to save something.

MR. TAFT AND THE SOUTH.

Just before leaving the Virginia Hotel, Mr. Taft gave out an interview, and among other things said:

"What I would particularly like to accomplish in my administration is the opinion of the South with other sections of the country in supporting my administration. I would like to appear as an agent in the movement to make Southern politics consistent with Southern business interests."

"For six years, as a circuit judge in a circuit that included Michigan and Ohio on one side of the Ohio River, and Kentucky and Tennessee on the other, I had the good fortune to visit and become acquainted with the lawyers of both sections. I had to become more or less aware of the conditions that prevailed in the four States, and to compare them. The warmth of feeling toward me and the cordial regard I had, awakened in me a deep sympathy and a great admiration for the South, and an earnest desire to put myself as far as I could in the place of Southerners and understand them, understand their point of view."

That's "fine," Mr. Taft, and if you will only put yourself "in the place of Southerners," we have nothing to fear.

We will meet you more than half way.

SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOR.

Frank Munsey, owner and publisher of the Washington Times, an afternoon paper which has been issued heretofore six days in the week is now to publish it on Sunday afternoons occupying seven days in the week just as many of the morning dailies now do. This is an innovation and in direct violation of the laws of God and man. Will the venture succeed? Let the Christian people of Christian America make answer.

REV. JAMES CANNON, JR., FOR GOVERNOR.

Rev. James Cannon, Jr., made an address a few nights ago to a large audience in Norfolk and announced their purpose to force Statewide prohibition as an issue next year. We nominate Rev. Jas. James Cannon, Jr., for Governor to wage the white banner of prohibition.—Gordonville Gazette.

That's beautiful in theory, but how about in practice? "The will of the law" in Virginia is that there shall be a two-cent rate, and the courts refuse to say nay. In these latter days it is no unusual thing that judicial construction usurps the power of legislation.

Chief Justice Marshall said:

"Judicial power, as contradistinguished from the power of the laws, has no existence. Courts are the mere instruments of the law, and can will nothing. When they are said to exercise a discretion, it is a mere legal discretion—a discretion to be exercised in discerning the course prescribed by law; and when that is discerned it is the duty of the court to follow it. Judicial power is never exercised for the purpose of giving effect to the will of the Judge; always for the purpose of giving effect to the will of the Legislature, in other words, to the will of the law."

That's beautiful in theory, but how about in practice? "The will of the law" in Virginia is that there shall be a two-cent rate, and the courts refuse to say nay. In these latter days it is no unusual thing that judicial construction usurps the power of legislation.

Working to secure just such results and now pretending to be shocked by them. Is the Sun mad or are the rest of us mad? "Go and sin no more."

'THE OUTLOOK FOR PLAIN PEOPLE.'

In the last issue of Everybody's Magazine there is a readable article with the above as caption. And the author is of optimistic build, for he concludes with these words of good cheer to "plain people": "Let the half-shield muck-rakes, the faltering soldier of the common good, the downhearted reformer leave his trench for a moment and climb to the hilltop that looks out on all the peoples and on all the forces of the age. He will see that the lips of the morning are redening." And again he says, "But the future of the undistinguished many so far as we can peer into it, is brighter than the past," and in all this our one hope is that the better day is indeed dawning, and the brighter sun is indeed rising. But as we regard the hope, events of the passing hours come rushing in upon us with such force as to crush hope and check aspirations for better conditions for the "undistinguished many."

Out of the past comes sounding and seeing this utterance of Alexander H. Milton, "the people, sir, the people is a great beast," and Roger Sherman chimes in with, "the people immediately should have as little to do as may be about the Government," and Eldridge Gerry who "declared democracy to be the worst of all political evils," and John Adams demanding a separate representation for the "rich and well-born," and old man Vandever, "d—n the people." True, the politicians of the hour are not as candid nor as courageous of utterances, but what are they doing? for the farmers for example? They ask for better public highways, and the reply is a "commission," traveling in palaces cars, listening to platitudes, faring sumptuously, and returning to the master who sent them on their jinking tour with messages of peace when there is no peace. Farmers still in the mud holes, commission still on palace cars.

The farmer asks for exemption from burdensome taxation, and the reply is "revision." They ask for "bread" and get "stones." But Christmas comes apace, and we too will become optimistic. We can at least peer into the future with the same writer: "On the walls of old Roumanian Churches are to be seen frescoes of the last judgment, in which kings, rulers and bishops are being led off to hell, while St. Peter welcomes the throngs of peasants for example? They ask for better public highways, and the reply is a "commission," traveling in palaces cars, listening to platitudes, faring sumptuously, and returning to the master who sent them on their jinking tour with messages of peace when there is no peace. Farmers still in the mud holes, commission still on palace cars.

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